

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing is respectfully requested in light of the comments which follow.

In the Official Action dated January 24, 2007, the Examiner has required election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between multiple identified species (listed generally in paragraph 1 the Official Action).

Applicants hereby elect the embodiment in Figure 14. Claims 1, 9 and 11-15 read on the elected species. At least claim 1, which has been identified by the Examiner, is generic.

Claims 16-17 have been added. Both claims 16 and 17 also read on the elected species. Support for claims 16 and 17 can be found, for example, at least at the original claims, Figure 14 and the specification, page 16, lines 22-25.

Amendments to claims 1-7 and 8-15 appearing herein are submitted only to remove reference numerals from the claims.

Election is with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of original claims 1-15 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining groups. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP § 803 clearly states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants in duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine original claims 1-15 in this application.

Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application (claims 2-8 and 10 having been withdrawn from consideration in view of the election of species requirement).

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

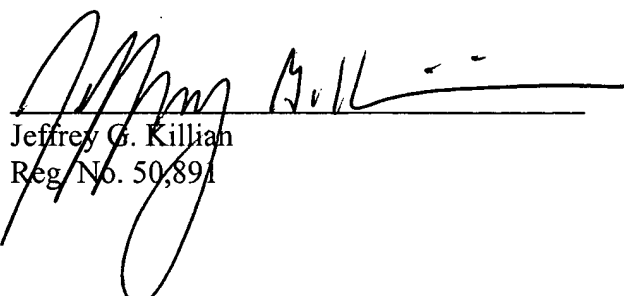
Applicants respectfully assert that no fee is due in connection with the filing of this response. However, if there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 2, 2007

By:


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